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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2003

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Gen. Ozkok: Iran, Syria also oppose a Kurdish state -
Hurriyet
US surrenders to peshmerge - Aksam 11/8
Gul warns US not to favor Iraqi Kurds - Hurriyet 11/9
Gul urges fair elections in Cyprus - Sabah
Massacre in Riyadh - Aksam 11/9
US F-16s bomb Fallujah - Aksam
Georgia a powder keg - Milliyet

OPINION MAKERS

Al-Qaida strikes in Riyadh - Cumhuriyet
Ozkok: We'll react differently to another Suleymaniye
incident - Zaman
Gen. Ozkok: Situation in Iraq is discomfoting - Radikal
11/9
Government abandons plans for troops to Iraq - Cumhuriyet
11/8
Al-Qaida might strike in US via cargo planes - Cumhuriyet
11/9
Ankara closes Iraq chapter - Radikal 11/8
Government suspends Iraq troop deployment - Zaman 11/8
US unhappy with the IGC - Yeni Safak
Racist security wall must be scrapped in Palestine - Yeni
Safak

BRIEFING

Army chief on US, Kurds, Greek Cypriots: TGS Chief General
Hilmi Ozkok said Turkey had acted with restraint during the
July 4 Suleymaniye crisis, but would not tolerate another
similar incident. Turkey will not withdraw its 1,500 troops
currently deployed in Northern Iraq, Ozkok added, unless the
security situation improves. Turkish troops in Cyprus are
not occupiers, Ozkok claimed, but are stationed on the
island in line with international agreements. Ozkok warned
that the Greek Cypriots should not fully trust the EU on
this issue, because no European country will drive Turkish
soldiers away from Cyprus. An independent Kurdish state
will pose a threat for Turkey's national interests and
regional security, Ozkok warned. Such a development would
affect not only Iraq, but Iran, Syria and Turkey as well, he
emphasized.

Ankara abandons plans for sending troops to Iraq: At the
request of the US, Ankara has decided to abandon its plans
for deploying troops to Iraq, Saturday papers report.
Secretary Powell phoned Foreign Minister Gul Thursday

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evening to acknowledge that the US has not been able to
break the Iraqis' resistance to Turkish peacekeepers. Gul
told Powell that Turkey would be happy if the US manages to
resolve the security problems in Iraq on its own. Secretary
Powell addressed Turkish concerns over security in Northern
Iraq, vowing to eliminate the threat posed by the PKK/KADEK.

Talabani due in Ankara: Iraqi Governing Council (IGC)
temporary chairman Jalal Talabani said that the IGC's
objection to Turkish peacekeepers in Iraq should not be

regarded as Iraqi animosity toward Turkey. Had Turkey sent troops to Iraq, Talabani said, Turks would have been dying instead of American soldiers. Talabani stressed before his official visit to Ankara next week that the new Iraq will remain a friend of Turkey.

Turkey stepping up humanitarian aid for Iraq: With the possible troops deployment now off the table, Ankara will focus its efforts in Iraq on meeting the humanitarian needs of the Iraqi people, according to Saturday's "Cumhuriyet." At a recent meeting in Ankara, Turkey's envoys to Middle Eastern countries proposed launching a civilian campaign in Iraq aimed at improving the daily lives of ordinary Iraqis. The US and Britain are preoccupied with security problems, they argued, and cannot tackle other daily problems in Iraq. The Turks are currently building hospitals in Baghdad and Mosul, and intend to extend humanitarian aid in all fields. Ankara is not happy with the amount of business given to Turkey in Iraq's rebuilding. FM Gul told Secretary Powell that Turkey's hopes to receive a considerable share of contracts issued in Iraq.

Azerbaijani president to Turkey: Azerbaijan's new president Ilham Aliyev is expected to visit Turkey after the Ramadan holiday on his first official foreign visit, papers report. Aliyev is expected to discuss with Ankara mainly the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline project.

Ankara uneasy over Israeli activities in N. Iraq: "Hurriyet" columnist Yalcin Dogan claimed that Prime Minister Erdogan met two weeks ago with an Israeli businessman willing to make a \$1 billion investment in Turkey. Dogan goes on to describe what he claims are Israeli efforts to meddle in Northern Iraq. 150,000 Kurdish Jews are currently settled in Israel, and Israel is buying land in Northern Iraq, the column claims. Israel wants to establish a Kurdish investment bank in Northern Iraq, and offered to activate the Haifa pipeline to carry Iraqi oil to world markets. The columnist speculates that the US might have urged Ariel Sharon to visit Turkey, and claims that Ankara had been disturbed by Israeli aspirations in Northern Iraq since the end of the war.

EDITORIAL OPINION: Iraq/Mideast

"The Fragmented Pieces of Iraq"
Ferai Tinc warned in mass appeal Hurriyet (11/10): "It is beyond comprehension to see the continuing mistakes made by the US. As hard as it is to believe, the policy method being applied in Iraq is trial and error. One wonders if this is a reality necessitated by conditions or a political choice? The way the US has conducted US-Turkish relations since the beginning of the Iraq crisis is not very encouraging for the future. The US did not do enough to eliminate the overall negative impression about a Turkish troop deployment in Iraq. The intention of Turkish forces was mistakenly portrayed as an effort to control the Kurds. Now Turkey finds itself in a position of hearing that its 'vicious intentions' have been prevented by the annulment of the troop deployment. .. What is going to happen now? It remains to be seen how the US will overcome the problems in Iraq, especially after giving up on its request for troops from Turkey and other Muslim nations. There are reports about training local militia for providing security. That means a group of forces consisting of members of the KDP and PUK as well as Shiite groups. If that really happens, it would mean total chaos."

"For Democracy in the Middle East"
Yasemin Congar commented in mass appeal Milliyet (11/10): "President Bush's speech on November 6 was an important one. The US has always considered the Middle East as an exception to democratic principles and ignored its oppressive regimes. Yet in his speech, President Bush officially declared the end of long-standing US policy for the Middle East. . Unlike his predecessors, Bush has clearly identified the countries in the Middle East -- not only Syria and Iran, but also US-friendly countries such as Egypt and Saudi Arabia - that need democratization. . Now this is the time to look for deeds as well as words. We shall see if Bush will take forceful measures against the Saudis and other regimes in the area. . Iraq stands as a litmus test for his remarks that democracy and Islam should live together and that all peoples deserve to live free. We shall see if Iraq will be successful enough to establish a new democratic state order. We shall see if Washington will provide enough political liberty for achieving that goal."